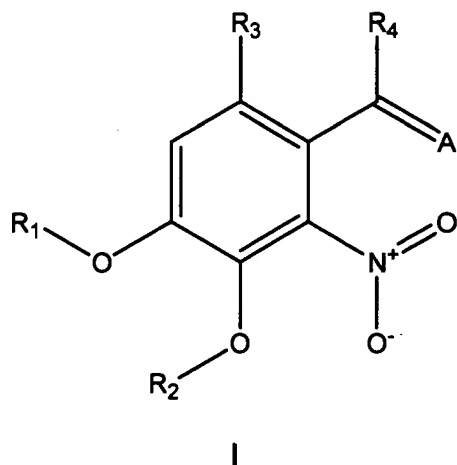


The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula I:



where:

R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and signify hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, aroyl or lower alkoxycarbonyl groups;

R₃ signifies hydrogen, an alkanoyl or an aroyl group;

R₄ signifies an aryl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated lower alkyl group optionally substituted with an aryl [~~or heterocycle~~alkyl] group, or R₄ taken together with R₃ signifies a saturated or partially unsaturated carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with one of:

[at least] one or more alkyl [~~group~~] groups,

an alkylidenearyl group optionally further substituted with ~~[at least]~~ one or
more hydroxy, alkoxy, dialkylamino, lower alkyl, halogen, or
trifluoromethyl ~~[group, or~~
~~an alkylheterocycloalkyl group]~~ groups; and

A signifies oxygen; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically
effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 6-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising (3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-phenyl-methanone.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising

6,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-1-one.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-pentan-1-one.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising

2,3-dihydroxy-1-nitro-anthraquinone.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyroxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 3-benzoyl-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-phenyl ester.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4,5-dibenzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethanone.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising

acetic acid 3-acetoxy-7,7-dimethyl-1-nitro-8-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-napthalen-2-yl ester.

Claims 32-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-acryloyl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propenone.

Claims 48-50 (canceled)

Claim 51 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
acetic acid 2-acetoxy-4-(1-acetoxy-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-nitro-phenyl ester.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising
butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising

carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 58 (new): A method of treating a subject afflicted by a central or peripheral nervous system disorder such as mood disorders, Parkinson's disease and parkinsonian disorders, gastrointestinal disturbances, edema formation states and hypertension, where a reduction in the O-methylation of catecholamines may be of therapeutical benefit, said method comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 1 effective to treat said disorder in the subject.